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For Immediate Release  
October 11, 2007

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**Whiting Man Pleads Guilty to Federal Firearms Charge**

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Mark McCurdy**, 50, of Whiting, Maine, pled guilty on October 9, 2007 in U.S. District Court in Bangor, Maine, to being a felon in possession of a firearm. McCurdy faces a possible sentence of up to 10 years and a fine of up to \$250,000, or both.

Court records reveal that on March 27, 2006, Washington County Sheriff's Deputies were called to a domestic disturbance at the residence where McCurdy lived with his girlfriend. During the course of their investigation, the deputies seized an AR-15 rifle, several magazines, and numerous rounds of ammunition.

According to the indictment, McCurdy had previously been convicted in Maine of Robbery, which is a felony. As a convicted felon, McCurdy is prohibited from possessing firearms.

This case was part of Maine's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, which coordinates the efforts of federal and state agencies in order to increase successful prosecution of firearms cases and educate potential offenders on the serious consequences of illegal gun use and possession.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, the Washington County Sheriff's Department and the Machias Police Department.

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